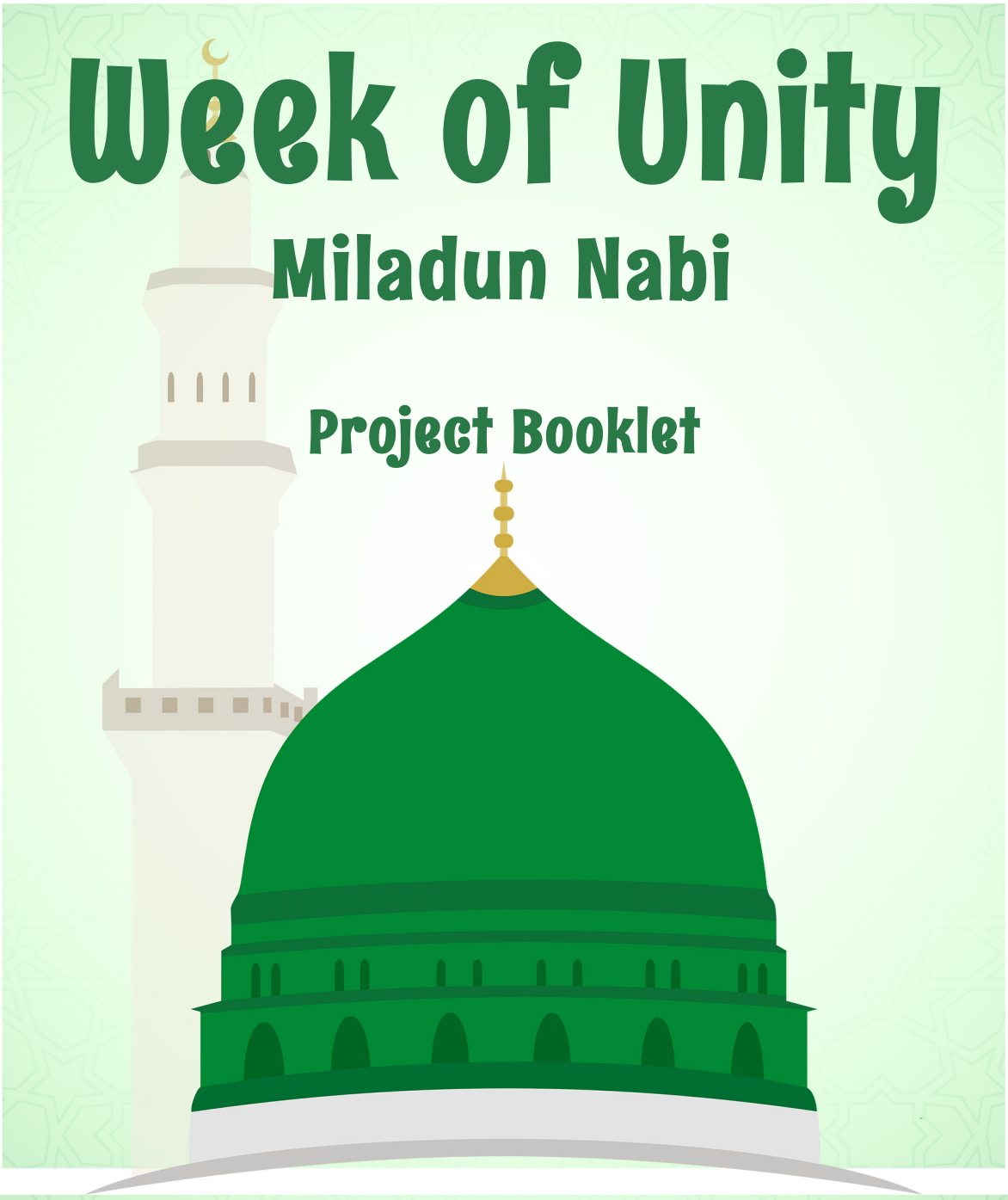
Book 3

Week of Unity

Miladun Nabi

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Rabīʿ al-Awwal

1st	Migration of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) from Mecca to Medina
8th	Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa)
9th	Eid az-Zahrāʾ; Imāmah of 12th Imām (ʿaj) begins
10th	Marriage anniversary of Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Lady Khadījah
12th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) (by some traditions)
12-17th	Week of Unity
15th	Masjid al-Qūbaʾ, the first Islamic mosque, is constructed
17th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)

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and go to **alkisafoundation.org/donate** to help us continue our efforts.
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who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-islam.org
Tales of the Last Messenger by Kisa Publications

Oriental Trading: “Unity Wreath Craft”
Easy Peasy and Fun: “Handprint Flower Bouquet Craft” (rope of Allah activity)
Babble Dabble Do: Yarn Rope
Teach Beside Me: Lock and Key Addition Puzzles (lock and key activity)

cover: vecteezy.com

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for mankind, our Noble Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

The Noble Prophet (ṣ) has said that he and Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) are the fathers of the Muslim ummah! They are our role models, our uswas, our heroes. They connect us and make us happy and unified. Today we are celebrating one Prophet whom we are all connected to. When the Noble Prophet (ṣ) started the mission of Islam, and built the first masjid, there were minimal resources. It was not a building like how we have today, they didn't have a nice set up with mics and speakers, or any other modern electrical devices. Yet, he was able to shake one of the most powerful nations, and bring peace and justice during his time. How was he able to do this?

- His great akhlāq and character: Before announcing his prophethood and beginning his mission of Islam, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) established his exceptional manners. He was called "aṣ-Ṣādiq" and "al-Āmīn" by everyone because he was so honest and trustworthy.
- His perseverance, tawakkul, and ikhlās: During the years when Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was preaching Islam, he was met with a lot of resistance and faced many hardships. Despite this, he maintained his trust in Allah (swt), trust that He would help him succeed. This, along with sincerity and kindness, was how he was able to spread the message of Islam.
- Strong supporters: Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) had supporters who were aligned with him and his mission. This meant that no matter what circumstances or struggles they faced, they understood the importance of the Prophet's mission. Even though they were few in number, their alignment was strong.

We as Muslims should adopt these qualities of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and also align ourselves to his mission.

The Muslim Ummah is on one ship. If someone makes a hole in this ship, we will all drown. It doesn't matter who makes the hole, the ship will sink regardless. Let us focus on the common points of history and how we were together and can be united and work together. In Islam, there is no Arab and non-Arab, there is no black and white, there is no male and female, there are no tribes. There is only taqwā (God-consciousness), and taqwā is not something we can judge or measure—only Allah (swt) can. It is okay to talk about our differences, but we have to be aware not to ridicule other peoples' beliefs, or create a negative impression of people with different views. We can agree to disagree, but respectfully.

We should also focus on the future generations. Our children and youth are the pioneers of our communities. They are the ones who will hold the torch of Islam and take us to the next level. So we need to take extra care to cultivate the seeds of knowledge and love into their hearts and minds. We need to be smart and unite to tackle the common problems that are increasing and affecting our future generations.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ), we are pleased to launch the Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creatures all around the earth, inshāʾAllāh we become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network.

We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

Jazākallāh khayrā and best wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Islam Unites Us All

Objective: Students will learn about what connects all Muslims around the world to each other.

We are now in the Islamic month of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. There are two special people whose birthdays we celebrate this month: our Noble Prophet, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). We celebrate the Noble Prophet's wilādah on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal while other Muslims celebrate it on the 12th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. The days in between are known as the Week of Unity. This week provides an opportunity for us to look at the Muslim ummah as a whole and see what we have in common.

All Muslims are related to one another through Islam. In the Qurʾān, Allah (swt) says, "Indeed the believers are brothers (and sisters)."[1] How should we treat our brothers? We should treat them with kindness and respect, and maintain our akhlāq when we have our differences. We are better able to do this when we have taqwā, when we are conscious of Allah (swt). Taqwā helps us have the best akhlāq. For example, when we have a disagreement with someone, if we remember that Allah (swt) doesn't like when we yell or use bad language, we will be less likely to do those things.

When the Noble Prophet (ṣ) invited people toward Islam, he didn't keep it exclusively for one or a few kinds of people. He invited everyone, whether they were rich, poor, Arab, non-Arab, of different nationalities. He showed us that this message of Allah (swt), of taqwā, is something everyone can make their way of life. There are so many Muslims are all around the world, from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and we are all connected to each other through Islam. Today, we are going to make a craft that will remind us of this connection and to celebrate it.

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt (49), Verse 10.

Unity Wreath

Suggested Ages: 5+

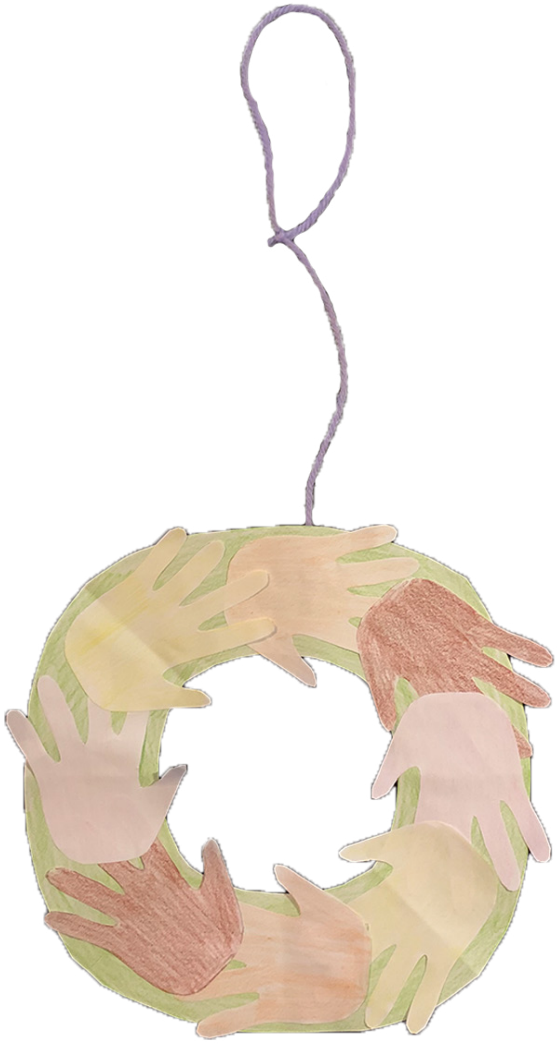
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Hand wreath template
- Optional: colored paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Yarn/string

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the pictures however you like.
2. Cut out the circle from the template by cutting along the dotted line of the bigger circle, and then smaller circle in the middle. You should have a 2 inch wide circle.
3. Cut out the hands from the template (optional: you can trace your hand on colored paper and use those instead).
4. Starting at the top, place the hands all along the circle, each one slightly overlapping the next one. Glue or tape them down.
5. Take the yarn or string and cut a piece long enough to make a loop to hang by. Glue or tape one end to the back of the circle at the top.



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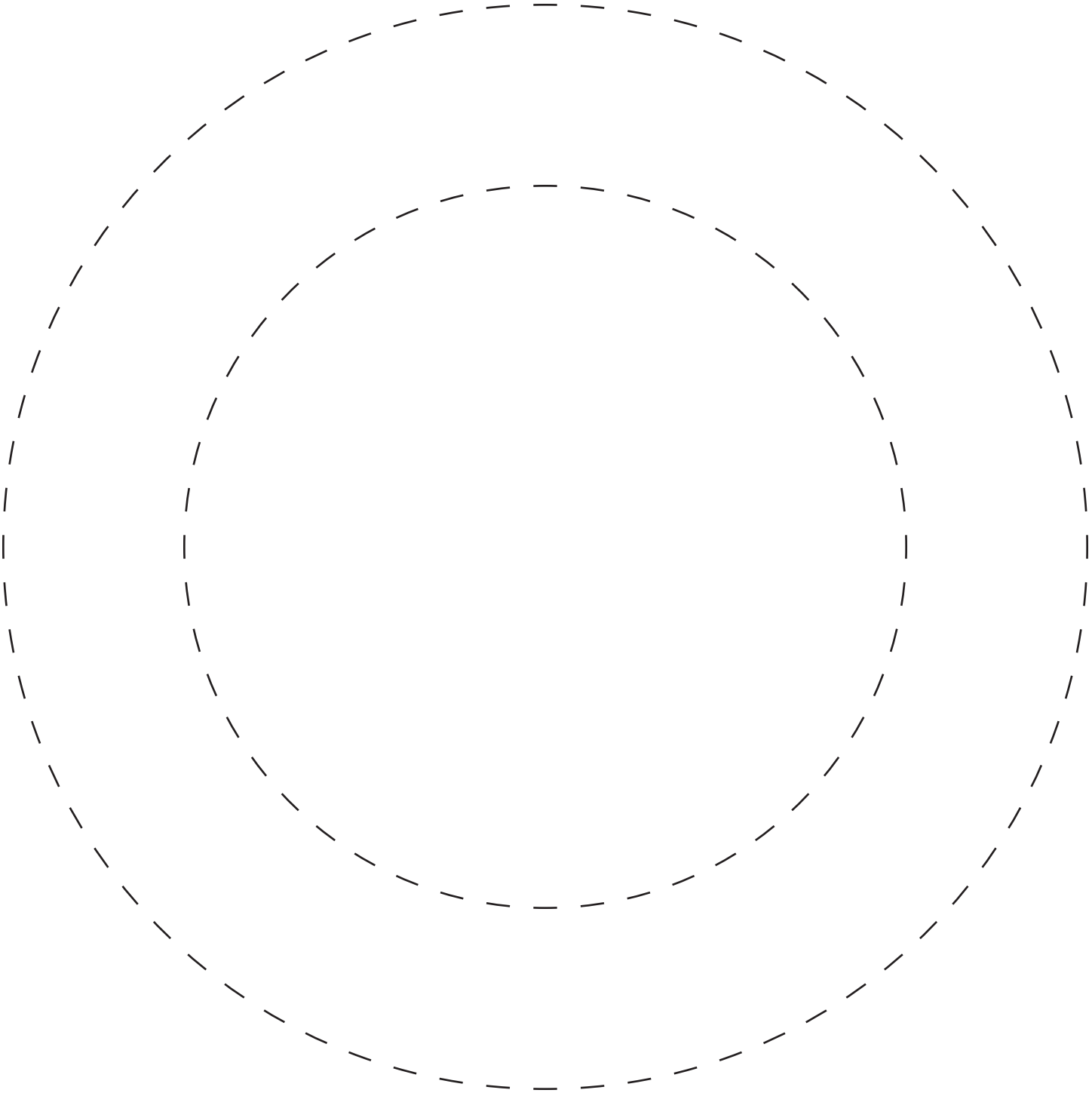

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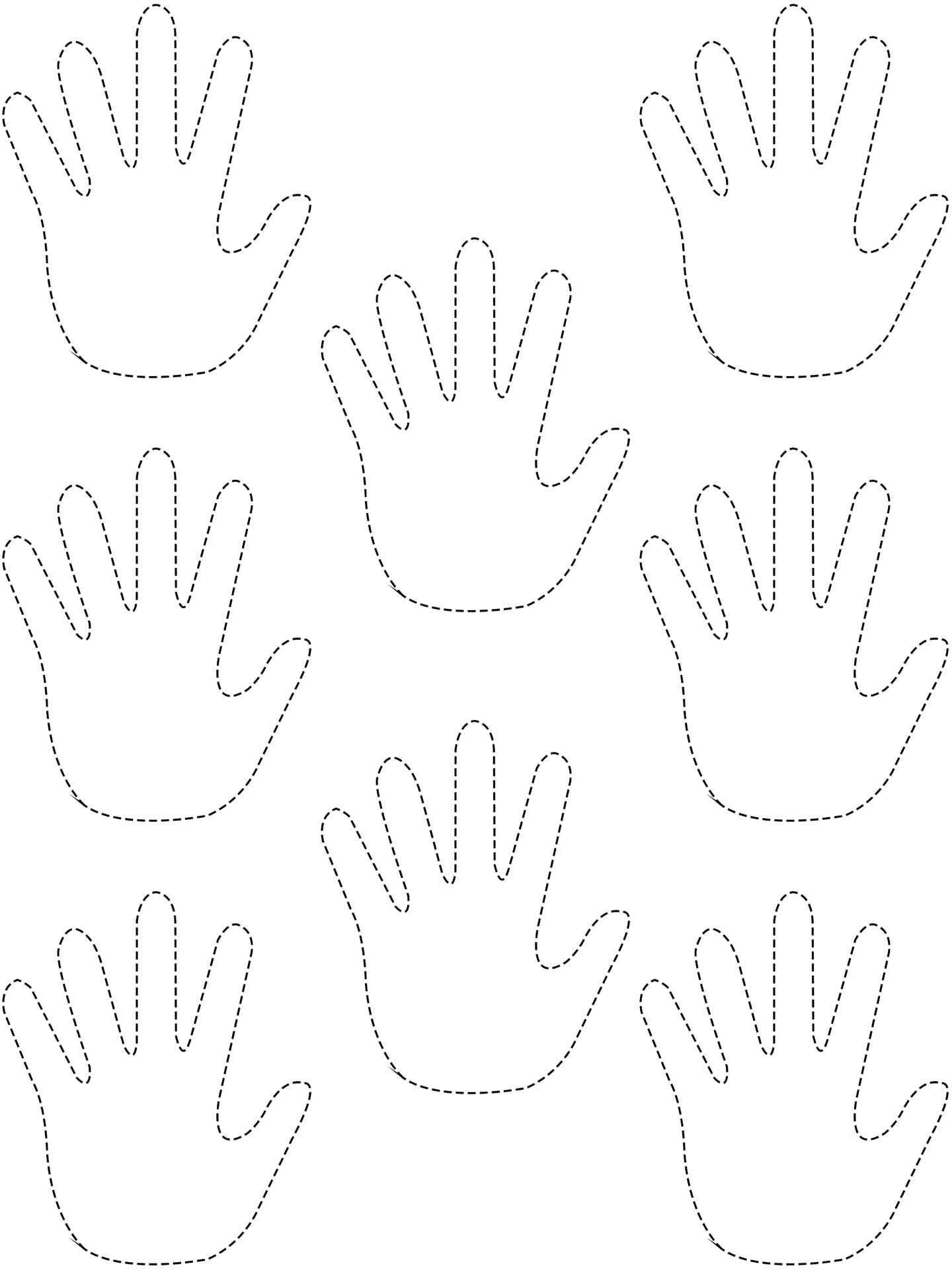

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Working Together

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of working together.

Once, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his friends were on a long journey. At one point, they decided to rest and cook something so they could eat. They were all tired, so they divided the tasks and worked together as a team. One of the companions volunteered to slaughter the sheep, another offered to skin it, and a third one said he would do the cooking. Someone needed to collect firewood for the cooking, so the Prophet (ṣ) happily volunteered for this task. The companions said, "O Prophet of Allah! Please rest; let us have the honor of cooking for you!" The Noble Prophet (ṣ) shook his head and replied, "I know you are great companions who want to serve and make Allah happy, but Allah does not like for anyone to consider himself above and beyond his friends. That includes me!" Having said that, the Prophet (ṣ) left to collect firewood, eager to put in as much work as his friends.

From this story, we can see how no one person is better than another, and how helping each other doesn't make anyone lower or higher than the rest. When we work together, even the most tedious tasks are doable. Also, if everyone pitches in as much as they can, the burden won't fall on any one person alone. In today's activity, we're going to see the difference between working alone and working together.

Story from *Tales of the Last Messenger* by Kisa Publications

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At Home or In Class Activity

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- n/a

Procedure:

1. At home: pick an important household activity, such as preparing dinner. Try to have everyone help in some way, from preparing, cooking, setting the table, cleaning up, etc.

   In class: pick an important classroom activity, such as cleaning up the classroom. Try to have everyone help in some way, from putting away the books and other classroom materials, picking up the trash, resetting the desks and chairs, etc.
2. Discuss how it is efficient, fair, and pleasant for everyone to work together, rather than one person doing everything. This can be demonstrated by having one person do the entire task by themselves, and then everyone working together, to compare.
3. You can alter the activity to fit your home/classroom setting.

TALES OF THE LAST MESSENGER

FROM THE LIFE OF THE NOBLE PROPHET (S)

Teamwork

Once, the Prophet (ṣ) and his friends were on a long journey. Every few hours, they would stop and rest for a while before continuing on their path.

At one of their stopovers, they decided to slaughter a sheep to cook. They were all tired, so in order to do this, they had to divide the tasks and work together as a team.

One of the companions volunteered to slaughter the sheep, another offered to skin it, and a third one said he would do the cooking.

Another person was needed to collect firewood for the cooking, so the Prophet (ṣ) happily volunteered for this task.

The companions said, “O Prophet of Allah! Please rest; let us have the honor of cooking for you!”

The Noble Prophet (ṣ) shook his head and replied, “I know you are great companions who want to serve and make Allah happy, but Allah does not like for anyone to consider himself above and beyond his friends. That includes me!”

Having said that, the Prophet (ṣ) left to collect firewood, eager to put in as much work as his friends.

Read to Succeed!

- The Prophet (ṣ) did not like arrogance or superiority in people. He never did anything that suggested he should be treated better than anyone else. Once, while he was circling the Kaʿbah, his sandal broke. A man near him immediately took off his own sandals and offered them to the Prophet (ṣ). The Prophet (ṣ) declined his offer and said, "Thank you so much, but I don't like preferring myself over others."

- When travelling in a group, all members should pitch in to do the work so that the burden doesn't fall on any one person alone. Once, a group of the Prophet's (ṣ) companions went for Ḥajj. On their return, they visited the Prophet (ṣ) and praised one of their companions. They said, "O Prophet (ṣ), whenever we stopped in our journey, he would recite, 'There is no god but Allah,' the entire time we were resting. He also did dhikr throughout the journey until the next time we stopped." The Prophet (ṣ) inquired, "While he did this, who fed him and his horse?" "We did, O Prophet (ṣ)," they replied. "Then you all are better than him," the Prophet (ṣ) said.

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 76, P. 273

Having Good Morals

Objective: Students will learn about the best example of morals for all mankind.

The Noble Prophet, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was known for his exceptional akhlāq and character. Even before he began his prophethood and mission, he was well known among the people for his honesty and trustworthiness. He showed not just with his words, but also with his actions. It is why Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) said, "Verily I was sent to perfect noble moral traits."[1] Because he had perfect manners himself, he was able to teach others.

Was his guidance on akhlāq only for the people of his time and region? Of course not! The Noble Prophet's guidance is for everyone in the world, regardless of era. The lessons he taught about good morals and behavior are things everyone can learn and benefit from. How can we apply the Noble Prophet's teachings today?

One of the most important qualities the Noble Prophet (ṣ) had and encouraged us to have was being generous and giving back to others. He emphasized giving charity, which is not limited to just giving money to those in need. It also includes helping others, being hospitable, and giving back to our communities and society. Today, we are going to do an activity where we will think about what morals we can have that the Noble Prophet (ṣ) would be proud of.

1 Rayshahrī, Muḥammad, *Mīzān al-Ḥikmah*, Ḥadīth #536.

Earth Mobile

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Earth template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Yarn/string

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the pictures however you like. In each heart, write or draw an example of good manners that is beneficial to the community/world.
2. Cut out the pictures from the template by cutting all along the outer edges.
3. Now take the yarn or string and cut out 3 pieces.
4. Glue or tape one end of each string to the back of each heart.
5. Then, glue or tape the other end of each string to the back of the Earth.

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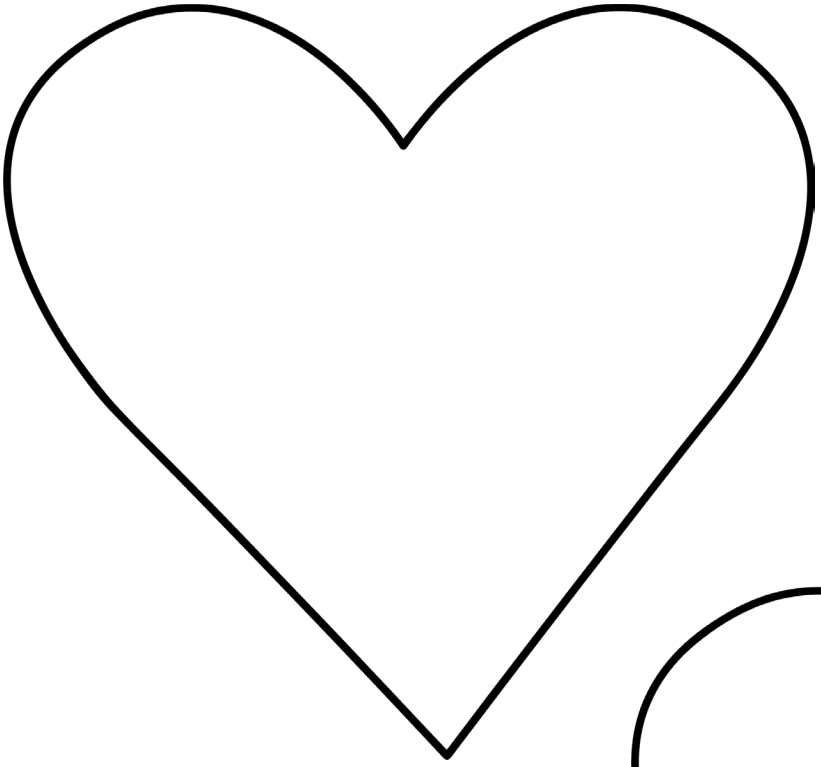

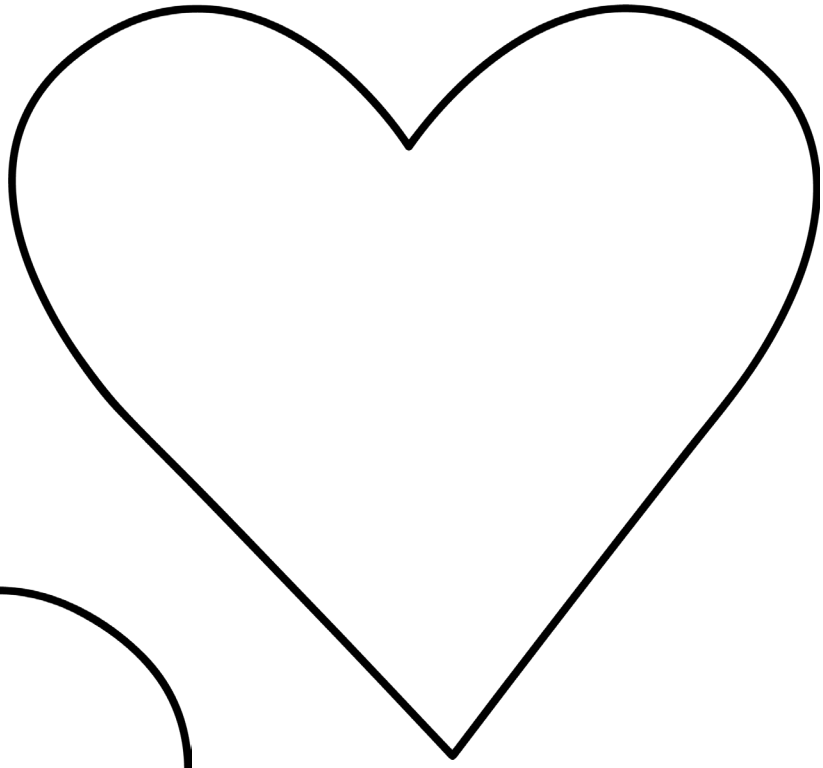

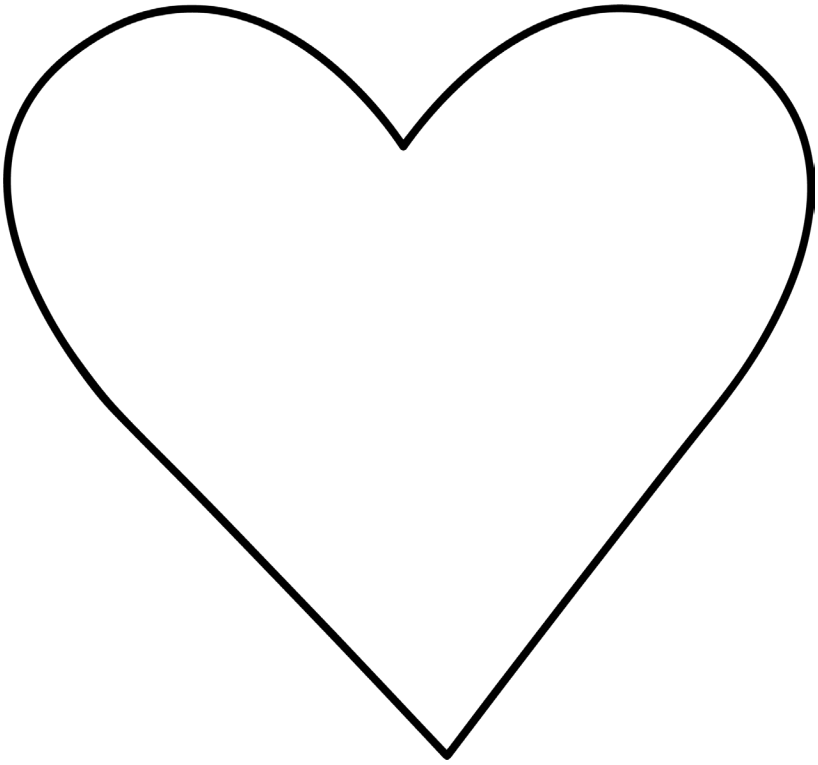

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The Rope of Allah (swt)

Objective: Students will learn about a firm way to get closer to Allah (swt).

As we have been celebrating our Noble Prophet (ṣ) this week, we have learned about his exemplary morals and the important life lessons he has taught to better ourselves and society as a whole. All of the lessons he has taught, either through his words or through his actions, result in the ultimate goal of getting closer to Allah (swt).

In the Qurʾān, Allah (swt) says, "And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."[1] So what is this rope of Allah (swt)? The Noble Prophet (ṣ) defined this when he said, "The Imāms from the progeny of Ḥusayn (ʿa) are such that whoever obeys them has obeyed Allah (swt), and whoever disobeys them has disobeyed Allah (swt). They are the firm rope [to Allah (swt)], and they are the means of recourse to Allah (swt)."[2] From this, we can see that the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) are our way of getting to Allah (swt). By learning their lessons and following their guidance, we can achieve a higher level of God-consciousness and faith. Today, we are going to make a craft that will remind us to stay with the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in order to get closer to Allah (swt).

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah Āl ʿImrān (3), Verse 103.
2 Rayshahrī, Muḥammad, *Mīzān al-Ḥikmah*, Ḥadīth #2062.

Holding a Rope Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Pencil
- Colored paper (2 different colors)
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Procedure:

1. Trace your hand on one piece of colored paper. Be sure to include some of the wrist.
2. Carefully cut out the hand shape.
3. Place the hand shape on the other colored paper, with the edge of the wrist on the right edge of the paper and the thumb at the top. Glue it down, but do not glue down the fingers.
4. Now we are going to make a rope from yarn. First take the yarn and cut 6 equal pieces, about 20 inches each.
5. Line them up and tie a knot at one end. Lay that end on a table and secure it under something heavy, like a stack of books.
6. Then, holding all 6 pieces, begin twisting them in one direction. Be sure to twist them tightly.
7. Once you reach the end, press one finger at the midpoint and bring the loose end to the knotted end. Then let go of your finger at the midpoint. The yarn should twist around itself (you can see how the yarn rope is made in this video from Babble Dabble Do).
8. Place the twisted yarn over the hand palm and glue or tape the ends down.
9. Now bring each of the 4 fingers over the yarn and glue just the tip of each finger on the hand. It should look like the fingers are holding the rope.
10. Finish decorating however you like.

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Asking Questions

Objective: Students will learn about one way to gain knowledge.

Earlier we mentioned how we celebrate the wilādah of two special people on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. One is the Noble Prophet (ṣ), and the other is our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). The 6th Imām and his father, Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa), were Imāms during a time when the corrupt rulers were too busy fighting amongst themselves. Because of this, they were able to teach others and even establish schools, masājid, and universities. There are also many ḥadīth from Imām Ṣādiq (ʿa) because he had many students.

In one ḥadīth, the 6th Imām (ʿa) says, "Verily, knowledge is a lock and its key is the question."[1] This means that knowledge is like a treasure, and to unlock it, we should ask questions. The kinds of questions he is referring to are the ones that encourage us to learn more. There are also questions that help us ponder, think, and reflect on ourselves and on our surroundings. From this, we can see the importance of gaining knowledge and one practical way of doing so. Today, we are going to do an activity which will help us learn more about our 6th Imām (ʿa), and also show us how to open the treasure of knowledge with questions.

1 Shaykh Ṣadūq, *Al-Khiṣāl*, Ḥadīth #101.

Lock and Key Questions

Suggested Ages: 5+

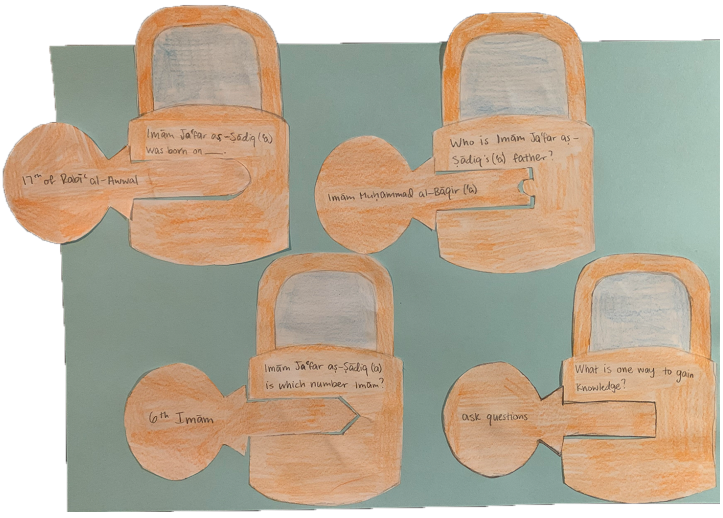
Time: 40 minutes

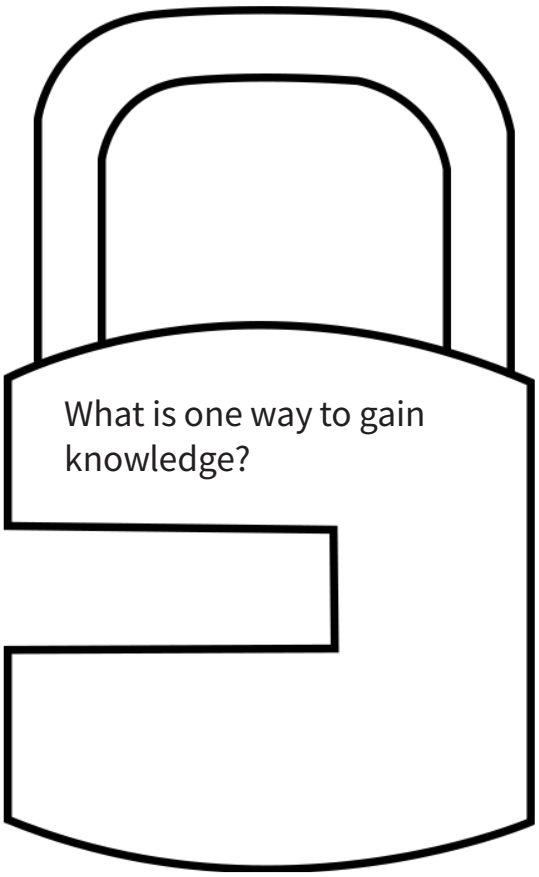
Materials:

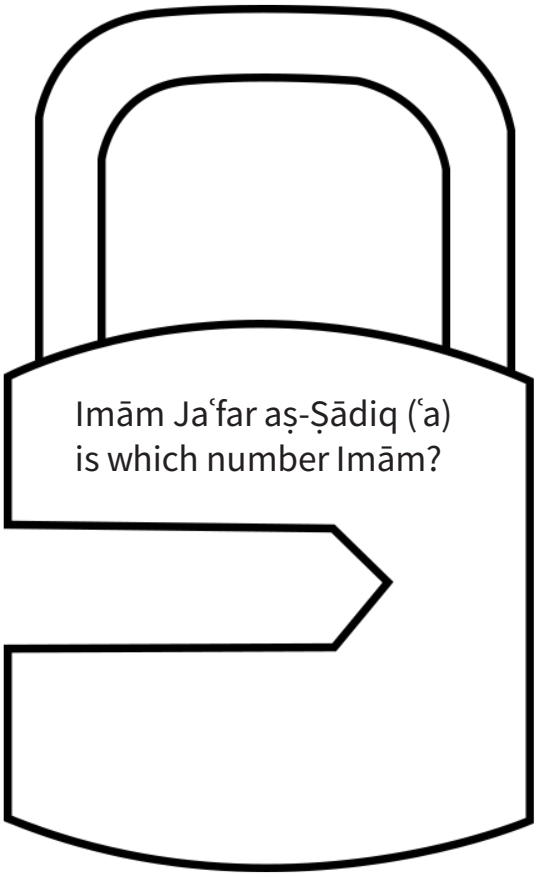
- Locks and keys template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue

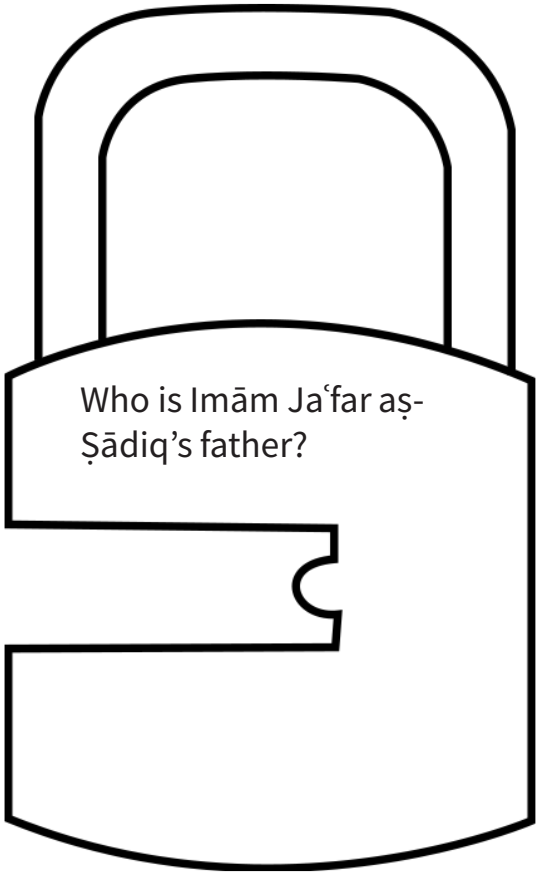
Procedure:

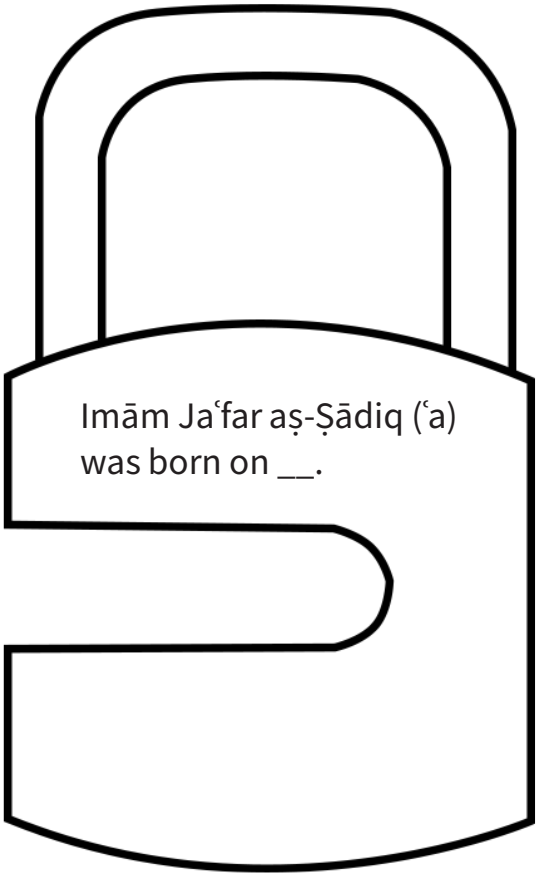
1. Color and decorate the pictures however you like.
2. Cut out all of the pieces from the template.
3. Each lock has a question and each key has an answer. Match the correct key with each lock. You can use the lesson to find the answers.
4. Glue down each lock and key pair on the colored paper.




What is one way to gain knowledge?


Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) is which number Imām?


Who is Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq’s father?


Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was born on __.

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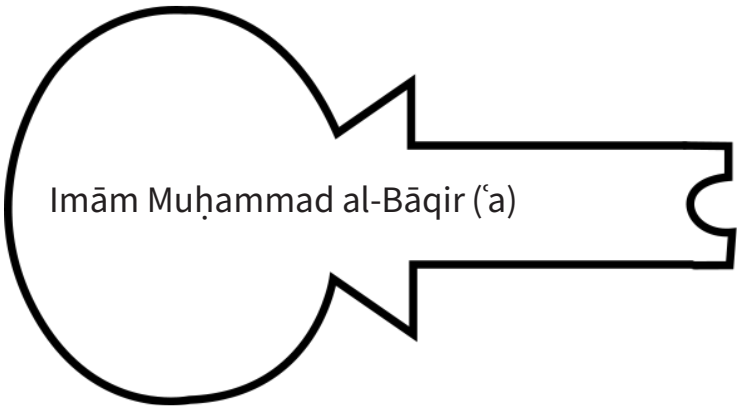
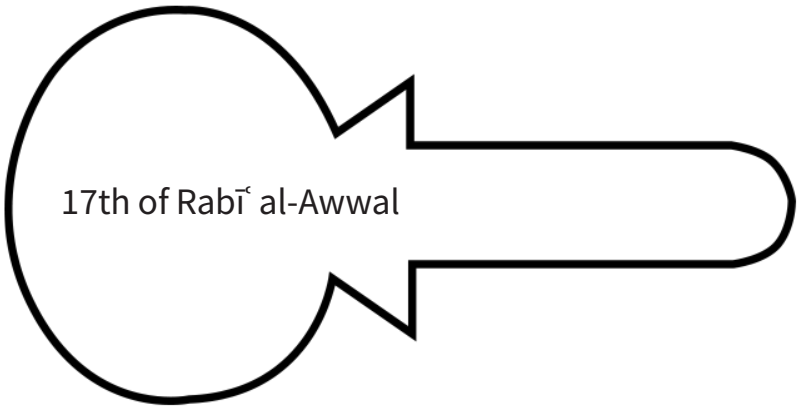
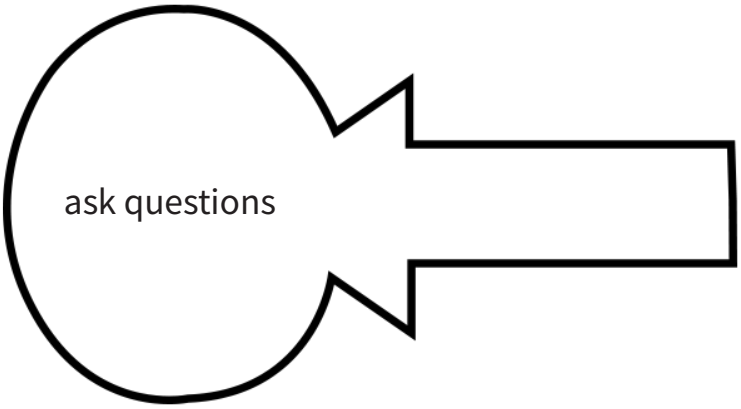
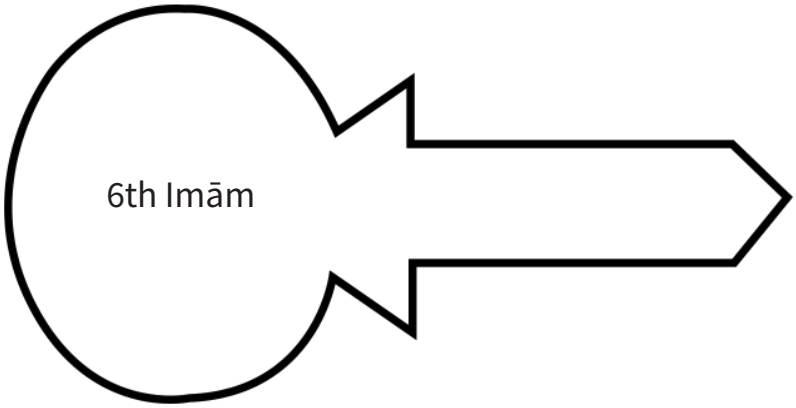

Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa)


17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal


ask questions


6th Imām

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UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY